

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PORG, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COMMON FUND CONSULTATIONS AT UN OVERVIEW
SESSION

REFERENCE: STATE 94332

1. MISSION OFFICER HAD DISCUSSED COREA'S FUTURE PLANS ON THE COMMON FUND WITH GROUP B COORDINATOR BARRASS OF UK ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, AND FOLLOWING IS BASED PRIMARILY ON THAT CONVERSATION. BARRASS HAD LUNCH ON TUESDAY WITH COREA, AUSTRALIAN MINISTER ENROUTE TO COMMONWEALTH MEETING AND SEVERAL LDC REPS. DISCUSSIONS AT THAT LUNCHEON COVERED BOTH THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF BANKERS, COREA'S INTENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE RESULTS OF THAT MEETING AND HIS FUTURE PLANS ON FURTHER PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS LEADING UP TO RESUMPTION OF COMMON FUND NEGOTIATING SESSION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE BANKERS MEETING, COREA WAS SOMEWHAT EVASIVE ABOUT WHETHER HE INTENDED TO TRY TO SEEK A CONSENSUS OF VIEWS BY THE END OF THAT MEETING. BARRASS'S FEELING WAS THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD INDEED SEEK TO DEVELOP A LIST OF THOSE PRINCIPLES WHICH THE BANKERS COULD AGREE ON AND THEN
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TO INCORPORATE THIS INTO A NEW SECRETARIAT PAPER ON THE COMMON FUND WHICH COREA WOULD SEEK TO HAVE COMPLETED BY MAY 10.

3. COREA SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT HE HOPED TO USE THE OCCASION OF THE LATTER FEW DAYS OF THE UN OVERVIEW MEETING TO HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AMONG SELECTED GROUP B AND LDC

REPRESENTATIVES. BARRASS, SPEAKING ON HIS OWN, SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE COREA FROM THIS COURSE OF ACTION. HIS ARGUMENT WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO KEEP JUGGLING THE CAST OF CHARACTERS AS THERE WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY THAT THE LDC PARTICIPANTS AT THE UN SESSION WOULD DIFFER FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE PRIVATE MEETINGS IN GENEVA. BARRASS RECOMMENDED THAT COREA SEEK TO SET UP A MEETING INVOLVING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS DURING THE TDB MINISTERIAL AND TO HOLD THIS MEETING SOME TIME LATER IN MAY IN GENEVA. HE ASKED THAT THESE VIEWS BE PASSED ON TO UNDERSECRETARY COOPER AND HOPED THAT MR. COOPER WOULD NOT, AT THIS STAGE, SIGNAL TO COREA THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK. COREA, IN ANY CASE, STILL HAS IN MIND A TARGET DATE OF MID-JUNE FOR A RESUMED SESSION OF THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MURMURINGS OF DISCONTENT THAT THE ONLY PARTICIPANTS FROM THE LDC SIDE IN THESE PRIVATE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN THE LOCAL GENEVA REPS AND THAT THE REAL VIEWS OF CAPITALS ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY REPRESENTED. THE MISSION APPRECIATES BARRASS'S POINT WITH RESPECT TO HAVING SOME CONTINUITY IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRIVATE MEETINGS AND CAN SEE HOW PARTICIPATION BY EITHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS OR FROM UN DELEGATIONS COULD POSE SOME DIFFICULTIES IF THE INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT SENSITIVE TO THE EVOLUTION OF
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POSITIONS OF BOTH GROUPS AND WHAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL RESUMED SESSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THIS POINT SHOULD BE EXAGGERATED, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US AND OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN LDC CAPITALS WHOM WE KNOW TO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING COMMON FUND DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. IN ANY CASE WE WOULD EXPECT THE LDC LEADERS ON THE COMMON FUND (SUCH AS AMB ALATAS) WHO ARE RESIDENT IN GENEVA TO ATTEND ANY MEETING IN NY ON THE FUND ORGANIZED BY COREA. IT IS THUS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WOULD BE HIGHER LEVEL AND MORE OPEN MINDED LDC REPRESENTATION IN A NEW YORK MEETING DURING THE OVER-VIEW SESSION THAN AT A LATER DATE IN GENEVA. WE FEEL BEST POSTURE FOR US (ASSUMING MR. COOPER'S SCHEDULE WOULD ALLOW HIM TO ATTEND EITHER A MEETING IN NY IN EARLY MAY OR IN GENEVA IN LATE MAY) WOULD BE TO TAKE A HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE AND LET COREA SEE IF HE CAN ORGANIZE A MEETING OF A QUALIFIED AND REPRESENTATIVE GROUP IN NY DURING THE OVER-VIEW MEETING.

5. ANOTHER MINOR ISSUE WITH RESPECT TO THE ROLE OF AMBASSADOR ALATAS, BARRASS INDICATED THAT IT IS NOT YET 100 PERCENT CERTAIN THAT ALATAS WILL BE RETURNING TO JAKARTA ON

ASSIGNMENT. IN ANY CASE, THERE IS TALK WITHIN THE G-77 OF
THE POSSIBILITY OF ALATAS ATTENDING COMMON FUND CONFERENCES
AND CONTINUING TO SERVE AS THE G-77 SPOKESMAN. VANDEN
HEUVEL

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